

In the Claims

1. (canceled)

2. (currently amended) ~~A system as set forth in claim 1 further comprising the steps of~~

A system for protecting an article comprising the steps of
affixing an electronic tag to the article characteristic of the article, said tag
including a wireless transceiver for communication over a communications network, a
GPS receiver for receiving location related information from a global positioning system,
a microprocessor for performing on board calculations and transferring data from said
GPS receiver to said transceiver and firmware in said microprocessor for processing
instructions for operation of said transceiver, said GPS receiver and said
microprocessor and for communicating with the communications network;

delivering an electronic signal from a remote location via a global positioning
system to said transceiver on the article to activate said tag to receive location related
information from the global positioning system and to emit a signal directly from said
GPS receiver indicative of the location of the article to said remote location; and

providing a FLASH memory within said electronic tag for tracking the location of the article over a period of time and delivering corresponding information from said firmware to said remote location to display the path of travel of the article over time on a map at said remote location.

3. (currently amended) A system as set forth in claim 2 ~~claim 1~~ further comprising the steps of providing a motion detector in said electronic tag for detecting motion of the article and establishing an electronic geographic boundary area about the article and emitting a signal from said tag in response to the article passing beyond said boundary.

4. (original) A system as set forth in claim 3 further comprising the step of employing said emitted signal from said tag to disable movement of the article upon passing from said geographic boundary area.

5. to 8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) An asset management and protection system comprising
a PADworks software component containing an inventory of disparate articles, a HISTORY function to record a time sequence of the movement of a selected article and
a LOCATE function to locate a selected article of said inventory; and

a plurality of PADtag components, each said PADtag component containing information characteristic of a selected article of said inventory and affixed to said selected article, each said PADtag including a wireless transceiver for communication over a communications network with said PADworks software component, a GPS receiver for receiving location related information from a global positioning system, a microprocessor for performing on board calculations and transferring data from said GPS receiver to said transceiver, and firmware in said microprocessor for processing instructions for operation of said transceiver, said GPS receiver and said microprocessor and for communicating with said PADworks software component over the communications network, and a FLASH memory for tracking the location of the article over a period of time and delivering corresponding information to said PADworks software component to display the path of travel of the article over time on a map.

10. (canceled)

11. (previously presented) A system as set forth in claim 9 wherein said microprocessor is a Rabbit 3000 series processor.

12. (previously presented) A system as set forth in claim 9 wherein said firmware has a plurality of ALERTS for monitoring a plurality of events and emitting a responsive signal through said transceiver indicative of the occurrence of at least one of said events.

13. (previously presented) A system as set forth in claim 12 wherein said firmware has a plurality of timers, each said timer being connected with a respective one of said ALERTS to be set thereby in response to an output from said respective ALERT, each said timer being programmed to effect transmission of a signal from said PADtag to said PADworks software component over the communications network indicative of the respective ALERT.

14. (previously presented) A system as set forth in claim 13 wherein said respective ALERT is an ALERT_PERIMETER_ENTER for indicating when an article enters a preset perimeter.

15. (previously presented) A system as set forth in claim 13 wherein said respective ALERT is an ALERT_PERIMETER_EXIT for indicating when an article exits a geographic perimeter.

16. (previously presented) A system as set forth in claim 13 wherein said respective ALERT is an ALERT_SPEED for indicating when an article exceeds a preset speed.

17. (previously presented) A system as set forth in claim 13 wherein said respective ALERT is an ALERT_ODOMETER for indicating when an odometer on the article exceeds a preset value.

18. (previously presented) A system as set forth in claim 13 wherein said respective ALERT is an ALERT_TRIPMETER for indicating when a trip meter on the article exceeds a preset value.

19 (currently amended) A system as set forth in claim 2 ~~claim 9~~ wherein said firmware has a PADfence algorithm for sensing at least one of movement of a selected article over a predetermined speed limit, movement of a selected article from a predetermined position and movement of a selected article beyond the boundary of a predetermined geographic area.

20. (new) An asset management and protection system comprising

a PADworks software component containing an inventory of disparate articles and a LOCATE function to locate a selected article of said inventory; and

a plurality of PADtag components, each said PADtag component containing information characteristic of a selected article of said inventory and affixed to said selected article, each said PADtag including a wireless transceiver for communication over a communications network with said PADworks software component, a GPS receiver for receiving location related information from a global positioning system, a microprocessor for performing on board calculations and transferring data from said GPS receiver to said transceiver and firmware in said microprocessor for processing instructions for operation of said transceiver, said GPS receiver and said microprocessor and for communicating with said PADworks software component over the communications network, said firmware having a plurality of ALERTS for monitoring a plurality of events and emitting a responsive signal through said transceiver indicative of the occurrence of at least one of said events and a plurality of timers, each said timer being connected with a respective one of said ALERTS to be set thereby in response to an output from said respective ALERT, each said timer being programmed to effect

transmission of a signal from said PADtag to said PADworks software component over the communications network indicative of the respective ALERT.